

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please enter the attached New Figs. 26-32.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, 29-30, 33-34 and 38-39 have been amended, new claim 40 added, the specification amended and new figures 26-32 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-20, 22, 24-25, and 27-40 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed April 28, 2005, the specification was objected to, claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24, 25, 27-35 and 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24-25, 27-35 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Furthermore, claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Brenson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,644 "Branson"). Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over admitted prior art (Figs. 1-7) in view of Branson. Claims 17, 18, 22, 25 and 28-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art (Figs. 1-7) in view of Branson and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,232,810 to Oklobdzija et al.

Claims 20, 36 and 37 were allowed. Applicants request consideration of claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24-25, 27-35 and 38-40.

Drawing Amendments

As discussed in the personal interview on October 4, 2005, new drawing Figs. 26-32 have been submitted so as to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. No new matter has been entered.

The new Figs. 26-32 are similar to drawings 8-9 and 13-17, but replace transistor 3 with transistor 30' of Fig. 11A, which is supplied with the current control signal CCS.

The specification teaches, at page 2, line 24 to page 3, line 12, that the differential input portion may include first and second transistors. A third transistor keeps a minute current flowing through the first and second transistors. A fourth transistor may be connected in parallel with the third transistor and supplies a drive current. The third transistor may supply a predetermined drive current during one time period and the minute current during another time period. New Figs. 26-32 illustrate exactly such configurations. Thus, no new matter has been entered by adding new drawings 26-32.

Specification Amendments

As discussed in the personal interview on October 4, 2005, the specification has been amended to be consistent with the addition of Figs. 26-32 and to include descriptions of Figs. 26-32. These amendments to the specification do not add new matter for the same reasons as discussed above.

Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objected to the paragraph that described Fig. 29 as containing new matter. As discussed in the personal interview, this paragraph does not add new matter for the reasons discussed above.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24-25, 27-35 and 38-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. As discussed in the personal interview and above, support for these claims can be found in the specification at page 2, line 24 to page 4, line 24. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24-25, 27-35 and 38-39 comply with the written description requirement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 24-25, 27-35 and 38-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As discussed in the personal interview, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10-11, 14-15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, 29-30, 33-34 and 38-39 so that these claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 6, 9-10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Branson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,644 “Branson”). In making this rejection, the Office Action asserts that this reference teaches each element of the claimed invention. Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claims 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (Figs. 1-7) in view of Branson.

Claims 17-18, 22, 25 and 28-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Branson and Oklobdzija et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,232,810 “Oklobdzija”).

In making these two rejections, the Office Action asserts that the combination of these references teaches and/or suggests the claimed invention. The Office Action also asserts that it would be obvious to combine these references. Applicants disagree and request reconsideration of this rejection.

Claim 1 recites in part:

...a third transistor is inserted between a first power line and a common node to which the first electrodes of said first and second transistors are connected, said third transistor keeps a minute current flowing through said first and second transistors in response to a clock signal at a first level said third transistor supplies a first drive current, in response to the clock signal at a second level, said first drive current through said third transistor is larger than said minute current;...

Claim 17 recites in part:

...a third transistor is inserted between a first power line and a common node to which the first electrodes of said first and second transistors are connected, said third transistor keeps a minute current flowing through said first and second transistors in response to a clock signal at a first level, said third transistor supplies a first drive current, in response to the clock signal at a

second level, said first drive current through said third transistor is larger than said minute current;....

Claim 38 recites in part:

...a third transistor is inserted between a first power line and a common node to which the first electrodes of said first and second transistors are connected, a gate electrode of said third transistor receives a control signal of which level is changed in accordance with the operation of said differential amplifier circuit, said third transistor keeps a minute current flowing through said first and second transistors, in response to said clock signal at a first level, said third transistor supplies a first drive current, in response to said clock signal at a second level, said first drive current through said third transistor is larger than said minute current;....

Claim 39 recites in part:

...a third transistor is inserted between a first power line and a common node to which the first electrodes of said first and second transistors are connected, a gate electrode of said third transistor receives a control signal of which level is changed in accordance with the operation of said differential amplifier circuit, said third transistor keeps a minute current flowing through said first and second transistors, in response to said clock signal at a first level, said third transistor supplies a first drive current in response to said clock signal at a second level, said first drive current through said third transistor is larger than said minute current;....

Branson teaches a transistor 26 that is maintained ON by the first voltage supply V_{DD} . Consequently, transistor 26 passes a small constant current. Transistor 26, however, does not pass a small current in response to a signal having a first level and a first drive current in response to a signal having a second level.

Neither the AAPA nor Oklobdzija are cited for nor do they teach and/or suggest a transistor that passes a small current in response to a signal having a first level and a first drive current in response to a signal having a second level.

Consequently, as discussed in the interview, Branson alone or in combination with the AAPA and Oklobdzija fails to teach and/or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims

1, 3, 6, 9-10 and 16 under 35 USC 102(b), the rejection of claims 11-15 under 35 USC 103(a) and the rejection of claims 17, 18, 22, 25 and 28-35 under 35 USC 103(a).

New Claim

New claim 40 has been added to further claim Applicants' invention. This claim is allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicants request consideration and allowance of claim 40.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendments and remarks have overcome the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated April 28, 2005.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be time filed, Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The undersigned authorizes the Office to charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Docket No. 100021-00069.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: New Figures 26-32
Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment and Fee Transmittal

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